

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Unemployment Rates Increase in All Metro Areas

*Illinois continues to lag behind nation in job growth despite jobs increase*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	February 2016	February 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	6.3%	5.0%	1.3
Carbondale-Marion	7.2%	6.0%	1.2
Champaign-Urbana	6.2%	5.4%	0.8
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.7%	6.5%	0.2
Danville	8.4%	7.4%	1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	6.8%	6.1%	0.7
Decatur	8.2%	7.4%	0.8
Elgin	7.1%	6.4%	0.7
Kankakee	8.1%	7.4%	0.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	6.7%	6.1%	0.6
Peoria	8.1%	6.7%	1.4
Rockford	8.0%	7.2%	0.8
Springfield	6.3%	5.7%	0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	7.2%	6.4%	0.8
Illinois Statewide	7.0%	6.5%	0.5

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO**—Unemployment rates increased in all of the metro areas compared to last year, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The increase in the unemployment rate in most metropolitan areas is partially due to more people looking for work.

“Illinois’ overall job growth rate remains among the slowest in the country and metro area unemployment rates continue to rise, even with an increase in jobs in February,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Structural reforms will provide the resources we need to more effectively build a stronger workforce and help communities towards achieving economic stability.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Lake-Kenosha (+2.3 percent, +8,800), Rockford (+2.1 percent, +3,100), and Champaign (+1.9, +2,000). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.7 percent or +62,100). Illinois businesses lost jobs in six metro areas including Bloomington (-1.9 percent, -1,800), the Quad Cities (-1.2 percent, -2,100), and Carbondale-Marion (-0.9 percent, -500). The industry

sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Retail (11 of 14), Education and Health Services (11 of 14), Government (10 of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 14), Professional and Business Services (eight of 14), and Other Services (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares February 2016 with February 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 7.0 percent in February 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in February 2016 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – February 2016

Metropolitan Area	February 2016*	February 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,500	95,300	-1,800
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,400	56,900	-500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	109,800	107,800	2,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,623,500	3,561,400	62,100
Danville MSA	29,000	29,200	-200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	177,800	179,900	-2,100
Decatur MSA	49,900	50,200	-300
Elgin Metro Division	250,600	246,100	4,500
Kankakee MSA	44,600	43,800	800
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	397,100	388,300	8,800
Peoria MSA	175,000	175,600	-600
Rockford MSA	150,700	147,600	3,100
Springfield MSA	111,400	110,000	1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	234,000	230,000	4,000
Illinois Statewide	5,888,100	5,819,900	68,200

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates  
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	<b>Feb- 16</b>	<b>Feb- 15</b>	<b>Over the Year Change</b>
<b>Rockford MSA</b>			
Boone County	8.5%	7.5%	1.0
Winnebago County	7.9%	7.2%	0.7
<b>Cities</b>			
Belvidere City	10.8%	9.2%	1.6
Freeport City	7.6%	7.4%	0.2
Rockford City	7.8%	6.8%	1.0
<b>Counties</b>			
Bureau County	8.1%	7.3%	0.8
Carroll County	7.6%	6.7%	0.9
DeKalb County	6.8%	6.1%	0.7
Henry County	7.8%	6.7%	1.1
JoDaviess County	7.9%	6.8%	1.1
Kane County	7.2%	6.5%	0.7
Lee County	6.5%	6.1%	0.4
McHenry County	6.5%	6.3%	0.2
Ogle County	7.7%	7.1%	0.6
Stephenson County	7.6%	7.6%	0.0
Whiteside County	7.3%	6.6%	0.7

**Stephenson County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.6 percent in February 2016 was unchanged from February 2015. For the month of February 2016, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,600.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +275 compared to a year ago. Construction (+225) and Professional-Business Services (+75) added the most jobs from February 2015. Financial Activities (-75) and Manufacturing (-50) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

**Note:**

- Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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**Rockford MSA Highlights**

**Help Wanted**

Area employers advertised for 5,000 positions in February and approximately 88 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

**Rockford MSA**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.0 percent in February 2016 from 7.2 percent in February 2015 as the number of people employed and unemployed in the labor force increased from a year ago. For the month of February 2016, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 13,600.

Total nonfarm employment increased +3,100 compared to February 2015. Professional-Business Services (+1,100), Retail Trade (+1,100), Educational-Health Services (+600), and Leisure-Hospitality (+300) sectors led other local industries in payroll gains. Construction (-100), Manufacturing (-100), and Information (-100) industries recorded declines compared to one year ago.

**Ogle County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.7 percent in February 2016 from 7.1 percent in February 2015. For the month of February 2016, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 2,000.

Total nonfarm employment increased (+500) compared to February 2015. Government (+100), Leisure-Hospitality (+75), Educational-Health Services (+75), Manufacturing (+75), and Construction (+75) sectors added the most jobs over the year. The Professional-Business Services (-25) sector recorded an employment decline compared to one year ago.